



THE JOURNEY OF THE HOLY FAMILY TO EGYPT

Prof. Dr. Mamdouh Eldamaty
Professor of Egyptology, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
Former Egyptian Minister of Antiquities



The land of Egypt was the cradle of civilization and incubator of religions. Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and Jesus lived in the same land. Later on, Islam entered and spread alongside Christianity in Egypt. The Journey of the Holy Family to Egypt, seeking refuge, is an event of the utmost significance in the history of Egypt. Such an arduous journey it was, fraught with hazard along the way. In their escape from the furious King Herod, the Holy Family had to avoid the common tracks in that time, and to pursue unknown paths. They picked their way, day after day, through hidden valleys and across uncharted plateaus in the rugged wastelands of Sinai, and so they arrived, at last, safely to Egypt. We can imagine the map of the route the Holy Family followed on its flight into Egypt, from Al-Farma in the north east of Sinai to Al-Muharraaq Monastery in the southern Nile Valley. As Christianity in Egypt spread, churches were built throughout the land, and the sites chosen were primarily those which had been visited and blessed by the Holy Family.

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